

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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AMEMBASSY PARAMARICO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOPN, GY, US

SUBJECT: BLACK NEWSPAPER INTEREST IN PRESENT STATE U.S.-GUYANESE
RELATIONS

SUMMARY: PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE REPORTER CALLED ON CHARGE
AND PAO NOVEMBER 2 TO INQUIRE ABOUT PRESENT STATE U.S.-
GUYANA. HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WAS BROWN STATEMENT, RECALL
OF CHARGE AND BACKGROUND OF U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS. END
SUMMARY.

1. MR. JAMES (SIC) WASHINGTON, REPORTER FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE, CALLED ON CHARGE THIS MORNING
(NOVEMBER 2) TO REQUEST INFORMATION REGARDING PRESENT
DIFFICULTIES IN U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS. CHARGE AND PAO
MET WITH PREPORTER WHO WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHY
DEPARTMENT RESPONDED IN SUCH HARSH LANGUAGE TO BURNHAM
SPEECH OF OCTOBER 17. REPORTER CONTINUED THAT HE THOUGHT
OUR RESPONSE TO CHARGES BY CASTRO OF DIRECT
U.S. COMPLICITY IN SABOTAGE OF CUBANA AIRLINTER
WAS MILD IN COMPARISON WITH USG REACTION TO BURNHAM
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SPEECH. HE HAD BEEN "INSTRUCTED BY HIS EDITOR

TO ASCERTAIN REASONS FOR BROWN CALLING BURNHAM "BALD FACED LIAR." WASHINGTON SPOKE OF BURNHAM AS BLACK LEADER OF SMALL COUNTRY AND WONDERED WHY SUCH HARSH LANGUAGE WAS USED. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON STATEMENT OTHER THAN TO AFFIRM ACCURACY AND INFORMED WASHINGTON HE SHOULD CONTACT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR ANY COMMENT.

2. WASHINGTON THEN ASKED ABOUT GENERAL STATE OF USG-GOG RELATIONS AND WANTED TO KNOW WHY CHARGE JOHN BLACKEN RETURNED TO GEORGETOWN. CHARGE REPLIED THAT BLACKEN WAS RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THAT IT WAS EXPECTED THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO GEORGETOWN SOMETIME SOON ALTHOUGH WE HAD NO IDEA AS TO HIS EXACT DATE OF RETURN. WASHINGTON THEN ASKED CHARGE TO COMMENT ON CAUSE FOR CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS. CHARGE REPLIED THAT THEY WERE STRAINED DUE TO THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM IN HIS OCTOBER 17 SPEECH ABOUT U.S. COMPLICITY IN PLANE CRASH. CHARGE CONTINUED THAT BURNHAM MADE THESE STATEMENTS EVEN THOUGH HE HAD BEEN PERSONALLY REASSURED THROUGH CHARGE BLACKEN BY SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT USG WAS NOT INVOLVED IN SABOTAGE OF AIRLINER. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT DEPARTMENT MADE ORAL PROTEST TO GOG OVER BURNHAM SPEECH AND CHARGE BLACKEN WAS RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS.

3. WASHINGTON THEN WANTED TO KNOW SOME BACKGROUND ABOUT U.S.-GUYANESE RELATIONS AND MENTIONED ALLEGATION MADE BY GOG ABOUT DESTABILIZATION OVER PRESS REPORTS THAT APPEARED IN THE U.S. EARLY THIS YEAR OF LARGE CUBAN AND CHINESE MILITARY PRESENCE IN GUYANA. CHARGE SAID HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THIS SINCE HE WASH NOT IN GUYANA AT THAT TIME. PAO INTERJECTED THAT THESE REPORTS DID NOT EMANATE FROM U.S. BUT FROM BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA. U.S. MEDIA

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REPRESENTATIVES HAD VISITED GUYANA AND HAD LAID THOSE CHARGES TO REST. THE USG UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WAS ATTEMPTING TO DESTABILIZE ANY SMALL COUNTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMANN HAD RECENTLY ASSURED FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS AT UNGA MEETING LATE SEPTEMBER THAT USG WAS NOT OPPOSED IN ANY WAY TO PRESENT SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN

GUYANA. CHARGE CONTINUED THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT OVER THE YEARS HAD BEEN PRINCIPAL DONOR OF AID FUNDS TO GUYANA. WE STILL HAD AN ONGOING AID MISSION HERE AND THAT GUYANA ALSO BENEFITTED FROM REGIONAL AID PROGRAMS DIRECTED THROUGH CARICOM NATIONS. WHEN WASHINGTON ALLUDED TO PRESENT SUSPENSION OF AID LOANS TO GUYANA, CHARGE STATED THAT WHILE SEVERAL LOANS WERE SUSPENDED, OTHER PROJECTS WERE CONTINUING. CHARGE CONTINUED THAT THE PEOPLE OF GUYANA HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY ORIENTED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF WARM FEELING AND INTEREST AMONG THE AVERAGE GUYANESE TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. WASHINGTON THEN ASKED IF HE COULD QUOTE CHARGE THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT WISHED TO IMPROVE PRESENT RELATIONS. CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE DIRECT QUOTE ON THIS; THAT SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE DEPARTMENT, JUST AS ANY STATEMENT FROM THE GUYANESE SIDE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HERE IN GEORGETOWN. INTERVIEW WAS THEN CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: WASHINGTON REPRESENTS BLACK NEWSPAPER PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE. HE INDICATED THAT PAPER'S READERS WERE PRIMARILY FROM THE PHILADELPHIA BLACK COMMUNITY WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHY USG REACTED SO HARSHLY TO SMALL BLACK COUNTRY HEADED BY BLACK LEADER. WASHINGTON TOLD PAO HE WAS IN AREA ON VACATION AND REQUESTED BY HIS EDITOR TO INVESTIGATE U.S.-GUYANA RELATIONS BASED ON CONFIDENTIAL

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